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MENTION THIS PAPER.

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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VOL. XIII. New Series--Vol. 1.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1897.

NO. 11

## THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things  
Present, Past and Future.

The State Railroad Commission of Georgia has suggested that all managers of railways in that State would do well to establish lunch rooms for colored passengers at points where they have eating houses for the whites. The commission has not issued any rule about the matter, but has suggested it and expects the railways to act upon the suggestion.

Hon. William Jennings Bryan was to visit Hartford, Conn., a few days ago and the House of the General Assembly passed a resolution by a vote of 55 to 31 to invite the popular Nebraskan to visit the Capitol during his stay in the city; but when the resolution was presented in the Senate it was rejected. But such a decision by the upper house of the Connecticut Legislature is not likely to give Mr. Bryan any sleepless hours.

No one who reads the papers and watches the news from Raleigh can fail to be impressed with the fact that the present Legislature is little less and little more than an all-round game of chance on the part of many of the members. So many of them want an appointment under somebody else that they are all the time trading and working their positions for all they are worth in trying to get some better place. If the news that goes out from Raleigh is true, there is not enough patriotism in the entire Legislature to declare that the United States is a free country, if refraining from making the declaration would get anybody a position that would pay a little money or give some political "pull" for the future.

Mr. Matthew C. D. Borden, of New York and Fall River, recently bought seven hundred thousand pieces of cotton cloth. He must see a great improvement in business in the future—the near future, too. In thus using his money for his own interest Mr. Borden did much to help others, for he relieved the mills at Fall River of all their accumulated stock and made it possible for the mills to run on.

If all that is printed about the present Legislature is true, they are far from the "Solomons" which we heard a man call them the other day. The Greensboro Record is responsible for the following paragraph:

"A member of the Legislature who, like all the others is hungry for pie, said the other day that he had found a place he wanted, but was laying low until the time for action then he proposes to strike. Being importuned to know what it was, he finally said it was Bishop Cheshire's place, which he understood paid \$3,000.

"He still believes he will get it, for he does not know but what it is a position under the State."

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature to prohibit the publishing of cartoons or the portrait of any person without such person's consent. If this should become a law the portrait prints of dead celebrities would be less often seen in the big papers; for permission would have to be obtained from the man while living, and that would be quite a delicate subject to approach a person with.

The following description of President McKinley's car from Canton to Washington was sent out a few days ago:

"The car will be known as the 'Pennsylvania Railroad Venetian Red,' all the cars composing the special being finished in that tint within and without. The train will consist of one baggage car, one diner, two Pullman sleepers—the Ardin and Delphi—for the accommodation of the inaugural committee and representatives of the press, and the special Pennsylvania Railroad cars, Nos. 505 and 38, which will be occupied by Major McKinley, his family and personal friends.

Rice's famous Goose Grease Liniment for the cure of all aches and pains, croup, colds, &c. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Wholesale Agents, Scotland Neck, N. C. 12 17 3m

Old Papers for Sale.

## ABOUT EDUCATION.

STUFFING THE CHILD'S MIND.

LIKE STRASBURG GEESE.

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted.)

Shall we search around for an illustration that portrays a too common idea of the child-mind?

To produce the famous Strasburg *pates de foie gras*, luckless geese are shut up in coops, so small that the birds can neither turn, nor flap their wings, nor even preen the feathers. Several times a day each unhappy goose is forced full of food by a feeding machine. The result of this concentration of effort upon one organ is very quickly seen. In two weeks a large, sturdy bird is reduced to a foul and living skeleton; but the desired effect has been produced upon the liver, which now weighs two to three pounds.

Is there not something akin to this in the methods applied to children by machine-teachers, and tacitly approved of by indifferent parents? Without thought of a child being possessed of any other organ besides a brain, and any other function beyond the acquirement of facts, and any other responsibility apart from earning a living, the little creature is stuffed with instruction—not education in its best sense—until its limbs jerk from overstrained nerves.

A sure proof of the actual damage of such training both to the child and to the community is found in the fact stated by Forbes Winslow, the famous authority on the brain, that Infant Prodiges seldom do well in after life, because of over-development in one direction and neglect of training in another, the result being that they are easily led away by temptation and often "go to the bad" when thrown on their own resources. All thinkers most fully acknowledge the need of broadening the life and enabling the individual to acquire a consciousness of other things beyond those that he can touch and taste and handle in his own neighborhood. For instance: Without the power to read, our lives are apt to remain as narrow as those of savages. But it is a mere dream to suppose that a knowledge of all the rivers of all the continents, with length, breadth, and characteristics, will deter little pilfering fingers from taking another scholar's lunch. You may drag the child through miles of arithmetic and over mountains of spelling; you may whir him through the universe until its knowledge is marvelous to relate, but all such brain development will not save your sweet little girl from the corruption of those whose thoughts are low. Where is the uplifting power of vulgar fractions or the heart-training in repeating the bounds of the Mediterranean sea? Though we speak with the tongues of savants, and treasure facts like the miser treasureth gold; though we compass all knowledge so that we can name the stars in their courses and the strata in their order, yet without judgment and character, will deter little pilfering fingers from taking another scholar's lunch. You may drag the child through miles of arithmetic and over mountains of spelling; you may whir him through the universe until its knowledge is marvelous to relate, but all such brain development will not save your sweet little girl from the corruption of those whose thoughts are low.

This scheme of Bentley's is doubly interesting, as he contemplates resurrecting an old "Deserted Village," re-establishing a city which once flourished nearly a hundred years ago, and which has literally been wiped off the face of the map. This was Sunbury, the city which was located on the Sunbury river, at its mouth, in Liberty county, and on the seacoast. In the year 1800 Sunbury was a South Georgia "boom town," and it quickly sprang into popularity, all the wealthy planters of that section going there and building beautiful homes. In 1820 Sunbury had some ten or fifteen thousand inhabitants and was considered a model city. Ships came into its harbor and it was regarded a commercial centre of no mean proportions. But suddenly Sunbury began to decline. It was sickly on account of malaria and the people fled from the city as if a plague had stricken the place. In a few years the city was almost deserted. And now only three or four huts mark the spot where once it flourished.

Bentley is to build his model negro city on the site of old Sunbury. He has ascertained that while the white people cannot stand the malaria of that district, the miasma has no ill effects upon negroes. The land is rich and can be bought cheap. It can be made a shipping point for the products of the country for many miles around. Bentley has recorded all these points.

"Yes," he said, "I have my plans well under way. I have written to the parties owning the land where old Sunbury was once located, and I expect to hear from them in a few days. This is no wildcat scheme. I mean business, and I already see the money in sight for the preliminary work. I have had this in my mind for several years. I wish to show the world what the negro of the South can do toward self-government. I want to say right here that we will have no worthless negroes in our new city. They have got to be industrious and of good character. I expect to have a city of 5000 people in two years from now."

Be not deceived; Nature is not mocked! The different elements of our being—body, mind and spirit—have to be trained up together. Each child has the tendency within it to slip back to wild, untrammelled defiance of the things that are right, unless all sorts of influences are brought to bear upon it. With it and with us as with the universe there is no such thing as standing still. We are either moving forward physically, mentally, and morally or we are slipping backward. So by neglect of proper means of education, and proper interest in your educators, you are possibly helping to thrust the child back to the starting point of your family ages ago. Scientists will tell you there is always at work among domestic

animals a tendency to slip back to the savage state. Your house cat litters in the barn, and the kittens unless brought to the house will be almost unapproachable later. Then their offspring incline to hunting in the fields and the woods and so on back to the wild cat stage. Thus also with the pariah dogs of Constantinople, with the wild horses of the Pampas, with the wild cattle of the Western plains. In the same manner, but in more fatal degree, is it with the child.

Now then, in your mind, take a walk around your town and see if as a matter of fact some, even many, children are not more neglected than any domestic animal you can name. The horse is broken to the harness and taught to pull without jerking; without training nothing is expected of it. The cow is accustomed to the stall by various little lures; from the young stock that have run for months in the pasture, butting stupidity is looked for and found. But the child under consideration is driven off to school just as early as possible, so as to leave the house quiet, left there in school for years under teachers whom parents do not even take the trouble to know, crammed by some of them with book knowledge as a Strasburg goose is crammed with meal, tempted to deception by various marking systems, driven into lying by harsh, unfeeling treatment at home, and is then expected to turn into a sane, well-rounded person. If he fails, and brings shame on himself and family, then up go the hands in astonishment that such a thing could be.

As well might you expect to gather Malaga grapes from a wild vine or find a living lamb in the cave of a lion.

## To Found A Negro City.

Atlanta Evening Constitution.

One of the most novel negro colonization schemes yet sprung has originated right here in Atlanta. The person at the head of it is no other than the well known barber, politician and military captain, Moses Bentley. Bentley has his plans well under way and he will not take his emigrants to any far away place in Africa or Liberia, but will settle them in Georgia, and will do so at a small cost to those who follow.

Bentley's scheme is unique in the fact that he will found a city exclusively for the negro. He is to have the entire government conducted by the people of his own race—a negro Mayor and negro Councilmen, negro policemen, and, in fact, as there are to be no white people living within the city limits, every office-holder will be a negro. Then the laws are to be the work of negro mental labor.

This scheme of Bentley's is doubly interesting, as he contemplates resurrecting an old "Deserted Village," re-establishing a city which once flourished nearly a hundred years ago, and which has literally been wiped off the face of the map. This was Sunbury, the city which was located on the Sunbury river, at its mouth, in Liberty county, and on the seacoast. In the year 1800 Sunbury was a South Georgia "boom town," and it quickly sprang into popularity, all the wealthy planters of that section going there and building beautiful homes. In 1820 Sunbury had some ten or fifteen thousand inhabitants and was considered a model city. Ships came into its harbor and it was regarded a commercial centre of no mean proportions. But suddenly Sunbury began to decline. It was sickly on account of malaria and the people fled from the city as if a plague had stricken the place. In a few years the city was almost deserted. And now only three or four huts mark the spot where once it flourished.

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Watch the crowd at Whitehead's Drug store buying Dixie Nerve and Bone Liniment. Best on earth for Pains, Strains, Rheumatism and everything where a first class Liniment is required. For man and beast.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

A CONDENSED REPORT OF

What the Law-makers are Doing.

From Wilmington Messenger.

FORTIETH DAY—TUESDAY, FEB. 23RD.

SENATE—Among bills and resolutions introduced were:

By Senator Newsom, to provide for working the public roads of Hertford county.

By Senator Utley, to provide for additional equipment, repairs and support of the university and normal and industrial school. This carries an appropriation of \$5,000 for the university and \$12,500 for the normal and industrial school.

To incorporate the Bank of Enfield. The bill to provide for additional equipment of the university was taken up.

Senator Atwater opposed appropriating an additional sum and demanded a roll call, which was sustained and the bill passed—ayes, 30; noes, 10.

The bill to provide for additional equipment, repairs and support of the normal and industrial school was next taken up. It gives this school \$25,000, the same as the university receives. The bill passed its readings without a dissenting vote.

The bill passed to incorporate colored grand lodge, Knights of Pythias of North Carolina.

HOUSE.—Most of the time in the House was spent in discussing private bills, mainly those relating to the cities of Wilmington and New Bern.

Among other transactions were bills:

By Mr. Dixon, of Cleveland, to submit to the popular vote the question of a dispensary for that county.

A resolution by Mr. Lusk, that after March 1st no bills or resolutions be introduced.

By Mr. Green, to submit to the popular vote at the next general election the question of state aid to higher education.

By Mr. Hancock, to reduce the bonds of sheriffs to 50 per cent. of the assessed taxes.

By Mr. Cathy, to promote public education, by providing that if the courts annual the 99-year lease of the North Carolina railroad and it is leased at a greater sum than the present one, the excess shall be apportioned by the state board of education among the various counties on a per capita basis.

Forty-first day—WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13.

SENATE.—Bills and resolutions were introduced as follows:

By Senator Person, to supply public laws to all justices of the peace.

By Senator Moye, to require a license to carry concealed weapons.

The following bills passed:

To make water courses twenty feet wide and eight feet deep, lawful fence.

To extend the time to compromise, commute and settle the state debt.

To repeal the charter of Margaretsville, Northampton county.

To regulate official bonds in Edgecombe county.

To place the registers of deeds' bond at \$5,000.

To amend the charter of Selma, allowing the town to tax druggists for selling liquor.

At the afternoon session bills passed as follows:

To amend the charter of Rocky Mount.

To amend The Code, by adding that any justice of the peace failing to keep a record of his criminal and civil trials shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

By leave Senator Person introduced a bill to assist in the maintenance of Figtard sanitarium for the treatment of negro consumptives.

HOUSE.—There were only forty-five members present, others being at the Newbern fair.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Ward, to reduce the pay of legislators to \$3 per day.

By Mr. Young, to make a \$4,000 appropriation (additional) out of the general fund for seven colored state normal schools.

Bills passed as follows:

To provide that in Beaufort, Columbus and Lenoir counties the commissioners "may" instead of "shall" publish county financial statements.

To amend the charter of the Dennis Simmons Lumber Company.

To work Northampton's roads by taxation.

To allow Lumberton to issue \$20,000 in bonds for water works, street improvements, etc.

To work Bladen county's roads by taxation.

A resolution, that no bills be introduced on or after March 1st.

To add Beaufort, New Hanover, Bladen, Henderson, Sampson, Perquimans, Bertie and Washington to chapter 173, act of 1895, this being the law which requires what is known as the "Doyle measurement" of logs.

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Available Phos. Acid	-	-	8.00 per cent.
Potash K 2 O—From High-Grade Sulphate	-	-	3.00 per cent.

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**N. B. JOSEY,**

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.

To amend the law regarding issues of fact in trials.

To create a board of control of convicts and roads in Mecklenburg county.

To allow the Wilmington street railway entering that city.

Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, offered a substitute to Mr. Dockery's bill changing the time of holding the Seventh district courts, and said it was satisfactory to Mr. Dockery. The act goes into effect July 1st next. A substitute was adopted with an amendment separating the civil terms in Anson.

Mr. Cook, by leave, introduced a bill to require the constitution of the United States and North Carolina to be read in all public schools.

The house met in night session at 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. Dockery introduced a resolution to allow laborers of the house 50 cents a day extra, saying there were this session only eleven, while two years ago there were eighteen. It was adopted.

Bills passed as follows:

To make it unlawful for any person, not a citizen of this state, to hunt or shoot any wild fowl in Currituck county from any box, battery or float of any kind.

To allow the people of Tyrrell county to vote for a special school tax in townships.

To require all public school teachers to read aloud to pupils twice during each session the constitution of the United States and of North Carolina.

To allow Sampson county to borrow money, issue bonds and levy a special tax.

To amend The Code as to indictments for cruelty to animals so as to give justices of the peace jurisdiction.

To enable Anson county to complete its jail.

To allow Lilesville to levy a special tax.

The bill to charter the Winston-Salem Southbound railway came up with favorable report.

Lieutenant Governor Reynolds, one of the incorporators, was present and expressed a desire for the bill to come up.

Mr. McCrary declared that the road was in direct competition with the North Carolina railway in which the state had so great interest; that it would complete at Lexington or at Salisbury; that the charter gave it a right to run to Charlotte. He said the people of Davidson did not want the road chartered. He moved to table the bill.

Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, said he favored the bill. He said he thought the matter ought to go over under today's agreement that no bill to which there was opposition was to be discussed.

Mr. Walters said it was a serious and grave matter and had been discussed for ten years past.

Mr. Sutton moved that the bill be passed over until the Newbern excursionists returned. The motion prevailed.

Forty-second day—THURSDAY, FEB. 25.

SENATE.—Among bills introduced were the following:

By Senator Geddies, to regulate the sale of liquor in Cumberland and to establish a dispensary.

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